REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims by deleting claims 16-24. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of this amendment.

In view of the above amendments and Applicants' comments stated herein, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher

Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carløs A. Marquez

Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP

3110 Fairview Park Drive Suite 1400 Falls Church, Virginia 22042 (703) 641-4200

April 21, 2004